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• American Board of Anesthesiology • Subspecialty Certification in Pain

August 16, 2001

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To Whom It May Concern:

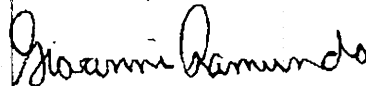
I understand the FDA is holding a meeting on September 13th and 14th concerning the use of opioid analgesics in various patient populations including pediatric patients and patients with chronic pain of nonmalignant etiology.

I have been practicing pain medicine in Livingston, New Jersey for approximately four years. Since that time I have seen many patients who have suffered severe trauma and had surgical procedures with residual pain. These patients have no signs of addiction and are truly experiencing chronic pain every day in their lives. One of the few medications that work well for chronic nonmalignant pain are opioid analgesics. In this population, I wish to continue them on these analgesics.

I have explained the risks and benefits of taking long-term narcotics with these patients, and I often look for other therapies before I place patients on opioid therapy. However, often times opioid therapy is the only medication which will improve their quality of life and allow them to return to a normal lifestyle. For this reason, I am asking that the FDA allow us to continue to write for opioid analgesics in chronic pain patients of nonmalignant etiology.

If you have any questions concerning my opinion, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,


Giovanni Ramundo, M.D.

GR/dp